A FIRE MIST AND A PLANET.

A fire mist and a planet
  A crystal and a cell;
A jellyfish and a saurian,
  And caves where the cavemen dwell;
Then a sense of law and beauty,
  And a face turned from the clod—
Some call it Evolution
  And others call it God.

A haze on the far horizon,
  The infinite tender sky;
The ripe, rich tints of the cornfields,
  And the wild geese sailing high;
And all over upland and lowland
  The charm of the golden rod—
Some of us call it autumn,
  And others call it God.

Like the tide on a crescent sea beach,
  When the moon is new and thin,
Into our hearts high yearnings
  Come welling and surging in—
Come from the mystic ocean
  Whose rim no foot has trod—
Some of us call it longing,
  And others call it God.

A picket frozen on duty,
  A mother starved for her brood,
Socrates drinking the hemlock,
  And Jesus on the rood;
The million who, humble and nameless,
  The straight, hard pathway trod—
Some call it Consecration,
  And others call it God.

W. H. CARRUTH.

WHEN HIS MAJESTY DINES.

When King Edward and Queen Alexandra give a state dinner the following is the form of invitation:

"The lord steward is commanded by the king and queen to invite Mrs. Vanderbilt to dinner Thursday, the 15th, at 9 o'clock. Full dress."

The guests assemble in the drawing room and there arrange themselves in a crescent to await their majesties' entrance, which is made without announcement. With the ladies only is there handshaking ceremony. Guests invited to a private dinner find their royal hosts in the drawing room to receive them. The guest of honor sits on the king's right hand and the royal family on the left.

The precedence at state dinners is as follows: Foreign ambassabors take precedence of English nobles; archbishops rank with dukes; bishops with earls; foreign counts and barons take no precedence, but rank with English baronets or great landed proprietors, and in entitled precedence, an earl's grandson, or near relatives of the aristocracy, precede the esquires or country gentlemen; next come wives of country gentlemen of no profession; then barristers and their wives, naval officers and their wives, military men and their wives. Physicians are ranked in the royal household as next to baronets. At private dinners usually some members of the royal household are present; the royal household numbers about 200.

Apropos to King Edward's new rules on precedence at his coronation, presidents will rank with kings and emperors; his argument is that he desires to honor the state and not the man. No distinction will be made, except perhaps in the case of near relations of the royal family. There is no race prejudice in England, and had not King Edward issued a decree to the effect that widows of peers who had married commoners had forfeited thereby their prerogatives as peeresses of the realm there would have appeared among the latter at Westminster Abbey on coronation day a negress of the Hottentot type, for the widow of the Earl of Stamford has lately married a Boer.

On state occasions there is splendid display of silver and gold, crystal and fine porcelain being more in evidence at private dinners. The dishes which the flunkies carry about must be deftly balanced on three fingers. One dinner set of pure gold will dine 130 guests; in another set there are 100 silver plates. The sideboard is decorated with a lot of golden trophies, some captured from the Spanish armada; on the walls of the banqueting room of Buckingham palace are displayed many gold shields, mounted on scarlet; a peacock of precious stones, valued at $100,000; a tiger's head with a solid gold tongue and diamonds for teeth. The value of the royal plate, including services for every function, is over $8,000,000. To pay his yearly household expenses about half a million dollars is necessary.

To return to the state dinners, there are three servants to six guests—one to pass the food, one to take away the empty dishes and one to go for the food. Each royalty has his or her own servant. The king is always waited on by the same footman, and he is always served first; the queen has her special servitor.

The menus are printed on beautiful cards, surmounted by the royal arms, and with a picture of Windsor castle, Buckingham palace, or whichever royal residence may be the scene of the function. The menu is headed "Their Majesties' Dinner:" this is followed by the date, and after that the French name of the various dishes—potage, poisson, hors d'oeuvre, releve, entrees, sorbet, roti, salade, fromage, dessert, fruits, varies, cafe noir. The usual order is two kinds of soups, two kinds of fish, in fact, two kinds of each course, with three different desserts and a side table of various cold meats. King Edward drinks but little wine; nor are long menus popular, an hour at most being the limit of the dinner hour.

The Hohenzollern Punch.

"The proper drink for Prince Henry," said Carlo, once the Prince's shipmate, yesterday, "is the Hohenzollern punch, named for the family. It is a fine drink, and yet easily made. The great care is to have fine ingredients. Here is how to do it:

"Take two bowls, one smaller than the other, to make the Hohenzollern punch for a party of twelve. Put the smaller in the larger, with cracked ice in between. Take the juice out of 1½ lemons, and 1½ pounds cut loaf sugar, dissolved in a quart of apollinaris, and mixed and thoroughly strained. Add a quarter pint each of Marischino and cognac (imported) and half pint of cream of Dantzig. Mix well and strain through a cloth into the bowl; add fruit in season, such as pineapple, cherries, oranges, etc. Put in two quarts imported Burgundy, and when ready to serve add two quarts imported champagne, any brand. When served, the ice should be level with the rim of the bowl and covered with flowers and the emblems, to the right the American flag and to the left that of Germany, about them, twining violets, the favorite of Prince Henry, on American Beauties, which adds a beautiful and symbolic effect. The idea in placing the ice about the bowl is to keep the contents in a uniform condition.

"Now," continued Carlo, "if Prince Henry comes here, that is what should be prepared for him. In that he will delight to drink the health of anyone from President Roosevelt to Admiral Dewey."—Kansas City Journal.

The Spanish navy, which was practically wiped out of existence in the sea fights of Manila bay and Santiago, leaving only a few old hulks at home ports, is to be revived, according to reports received at the Navy Department, and upon a scale which will bring Spain in a few years to the same strength on the seas she held prior to the war.

THE AMERICAN SHIRTWAIST GIRL

MISS SARTORIS TO STUDY ART AND MUSIC

MISS VIVIAN SARTORIS.

Miss Vivian Sartoris, granddaughter of General U. S. Grant, intends to fit herself for an artistic and musical career. She is a daily attendant upon classes to fit herself for the examination of the Ecole des Beaux Arts at Paris.

Miss Vivian is the elder of the two daughters of Algernon and Mrs. Sartoris, the latter the only daughter of the late General Grant. She was one of the most beautiful and attractive girls in Washington society, and rumors of her engagement to marry have been frequent. Last year the date was set for July 10 for her marriage to Archibald Balfour, a cousin of the famous English statesman, and a distant relative of Lord Salisbury. Many handsome presents were sent from this country, and her trousseau was prepared, when the engagement was declared off.

No explanation was given. In a letter to her mother, however, she explained that she had believed herself in love with Mr. Balfour, but as the time of the wedding approached she discovered her unfitness to assume the responsibilities of matrimony.

Two years ago she was reported engaged to D. O. Nichols, of New York. This engagement was also summarily broken. Mrs. Sartoris has recently told her friends that she did not think her elder daughter would ever marry. Some of her friends believe that she will essay an operatic career, but her entrance to the Ecole des Beaux Arts would indicate that her ambition is to become known as a painter or sculptor.

Miss Sartoris and her sister, Miss Rosemary, left Washington nearly a year ago to spend the season with her father's relatives in London. In the early fall, with her aunt and sister, she started on a tour of the Italian cities. Some weeks ago she wrote to her mother, asking permission to leave the party and go to Paris to study art. Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Sartoris consented.

BRAIN FOOD FOR THE PESSIMISTIC

The Nineteenth Century Received from the Eighteenth Century:	The Nineteenth Century Bequeathed to the Twentieth Century:
The horse, the ox, wheeled vehicles and sleds.	Steam locomotives, electric railways, bicycles and automobiles.
Sailing vessels of wood.	Steamships of steel.
The scythe.	Mowing machines.
The sickle.	Self-binding harvesters.
The flail.	Steam threshing machines.
Hand looms.	Cotton and woolen factories.
Hand forges.	Mammoth steel plants.
The tallow dip.	Gas and electric illumination.
Beacon signal fires.	Telegraphy: submarine and wireless.
The open fireplace.	Cooking ranges, furnaces, steam heat.
Mill ponds.	Storage batteries.
The quill pen.	Fountain pens and typewriters.
Communications by letter.	Telephones and phonographs.
Hand typesetting.	Typesetting and linotype machines.
The hand printing press.	Web perfecting printing presses.
Smoky, weak and offensive gunpowder.	Smokeless powder, giant powder, nitro-glycerine, dynamite.
Flintlocks and muzzle loaders.	Automatic Maxims, Gatlings, etc.
The painter's brush and wood cuts.	Color photography, lithography.
Leather fire buckets.	Fire-engines, steam and chemical.
The galvanic battery.	The dynamo—harnessed to Niagaras.
Twenty-three chemical elements.	Eighty chemical elements.
Low structures, of wood or stone.	Steel buildings, twenty stories high.
Ladders and stairways.	Hydraulic and electric elevators.
Sunlight in bulk. Its complex nature unknown.	Heat, light, actinic and Roentgen rays, separated for special uses.
Astrology and "geography of the heavens."	Astronomy and the chemistry of the stars.
Weather changes without warning.	The prophetic weather bureau.
Mail service by stage, saddle, or footman; scattered postoffices; twenty-five cent letter postage.	Special fast mail trains; free delivery at our homes; two-cent letter postage; newspapers practically free.
Unalleviable pain, torturing surgery, uncontrollable plagues.	Antiseptics, anaesthetics, painless surgery, subdued plagues.
An average human longevity of about thirty years.	An average human longevity of about forty years.
Schools and colleges, few, poorly equipped; almost no provision for educating females.	Schools, colleges and universities, abundant and generously equipped; equal advantages for females.
Dogmatic religion, characterized largely by superstition, priestcraft, fear and formality.	Religious faith characterized largely by intelligence, hope, charity and Christian liberty.

DESIGNATED AS "AMERINDS."

Term Invented to Describe the American Red Men.

"Indian," meaning the designation of the American savage, has been superseded in scientific circles by "Amerind," and the old-time confusion of the earliest American peoples with those of the Indian peninsula is now a thing of the past. This change has been ordered by the bureau of American ethnology. The endless difficulties encountered by ethnologists and anthropologists in distinguishing between two branches of the earth's peoples, widely separated in every sense of the word, long ago made some change necessary. The bureau has accordingly manufactured a term, using the first two syllables of "America," with the first syllable of "Indian" to produce a word which should bespeak its own meaning at a glance. The result is said to have met with general favor throughout the scientific world.

The old denomination arose through the ignorance of Columbus and his contemporaries, who supposed the land discovered was only a part of India. After the expedition of Magellan this was found to be incorrect, but the name "Indian" had even then been fastened on the American natives, and has confused the students of anthropology ever since.

The formation of varnish, long supposed to be an oxidation process, is otherwise explained by Dr. Kronstein, a German chemist. He finds that the constituent elements and their proportions remain the same, but the molecular weight becomes changed, the process being that known in chemistry as polymerization. Linoxin, so important for linoleum, is polymerized linseed oil in its highest stage.

RARE FINDS IN ARMENIA.

Some Recent German Investigations of Chaldean Remains.

The interest of the German government in the Bagdad railway has led it to dispatch important missions to Armenia for the purpose of making archaeological explorations in Armenia. The first of these expeditions was intrusted to Dr. W. Belck alone, and in 1898 and 1899 he was accompanied by the assyriologist, Dr. C. F. Lehmann. The report of these expeditions has just been issued, and the results to science are most important. The first indications of a civilization in the mountain lands bordering on Lake Van were made known by the French traveler, Dr. Schultz, who copied a number of inscriptions on the rocky walls of the fortress of the city of Van. Schultz, unfortunately, was killed by the Kurds, but his diaries and copies of inscriptions were recovered and published by the French government in the Journal Asiatique.

Layard, who visited Armenia in 1849, copied a number of inscriptions, and Rassam, who made several visits to the country and excavated at Toprak Kaleh, the ancient palace of the Vannic kings, copied or took casts of several more, but the work of the German expeditions has greatly increased our knowledge of the country. The members collated all inscriptions previously copied, and increased the material for the study of ancient Armenian history by nearly 2000 lines—including the discovery of a most important and fairly lengthy bilingual inscription in Assyrian and Vannic. The most important result of the expedition has been to define clearly the extent of this empire, which has almost entirely disappeared from the field of history. The capital city was Van, on the lake of that name, called Dhuspas—the Tosps of the classics—but the royal residence seems to have been at Toprak Kaleh, called at a later period "Rusas town." The northern boundaries of the empire are uncertain, but several inscriptions were found in Russian Armenia. On the east the inscriptions were found as far as Lake Uromiyeh, and one on the rock, heights near Rowandiz, on the summit of the Pass of Keli-shin, 12,000 feet above sea level. This inscription was first discovered by Sir Henry Rawlinson, and was set up during the reign of the Kings Ispunis and Menuns, about B. C. 800. Westward, on the rocks at Palu, on the Euphrates, near Malatiyeh, the inscriptions of Menuas are also found.—Paris Messenger.

THE TOBACCO HABIT REVIEWED

How men first came to smoke tobacco is not known; but two things are clear; that the practice was originally a religious rite, and that it was brought in the sixteenth century from America to Europe, whence it spread to Asia. All three modes of using the weed—cigars, pipes, and snuff—were found in vogue among the natives by the earliest discoverers. In the narrative of the first voyage of Columbus, we are told of the astonishment of the Spaniards at seeing the natives of San Salvador puffing cigars, or rather enormous cigarettes. On his second voyage, the islanders were observed snuffing the powdered leaf through a hollow cane. On the mainland, pipe-smoking was the universal custom, but still retaining much of the ritualistic character. So tobacco went to Spain as cigars, to France (through Jean Nicot) as snuff, and was carried to England with the pipe by Ralph Lane, governor of Virginia, on his return in 1586. Raleigh, though he adopted the practice, was not (as is often stated) its introducer. England gave it to the Dutch, and the Dutch carried it to the Spice Islands and farthest Cathay, so that, almost before the century closed, tobacco had girdled the world. Not, however, without opposition. King James's futile crusade against the weed had no effect except to stimulate poets like Jonson, Ford, Sylvester and smaller fry to curry court favor by satirical abuse of smoking and smokers. Shakespeare never alludes to the practice; and his silence may be interpreted either way. Sultans, shahs, khalifs, and czars put forth their might against it, and Pope Urban launched a bull against its use, but all in vain; the frail, withered leaf was stronger than popes and kings.

As Mr. Penn has omitted the famous anecdotes associated with this bull of Urban's, we venture to retell it, old as it is. On the publication of the bull, a paper was found affixed to the statue of Pasquil, containing the text: "Contra folium ostendis potentiam tuam, et stipulam siccam persequeris?" (Job, xiii, 25.) Urban made proclamation that, if the author would declare himself, he should receive reward. On the next morning the pasquil was found signed "Job."

Despite both spiritual and secular fulminations, tobacco held its own, and even—what few monarchs have done—conquered the church. The present pope takes snuff, the finest in the world, which is specially made for him in Baltimore. But fashions in tobacco-taking, as in other things, have varied. In the eighteenth century the pipe sank in reputation in England, and the snuff-box arose. On the continent, snuff had always been aristocratic, and leaders of fashion had rivalled each other in the costliness and beauty of their boxes, the exquisite flavor of their contents, and the grace with which the pinch was inhaled. England never quite attained these high levels of elegance, and in the nineteenth century went back to the cigar. The Crimean war brought in the cigarette, the use of which the English had learned from their allies, and in late years the pipe has come once more into favor.

The forms of pipes are bewildering in their variety, but, for simplicity (and we might almost say sublimity of conception), that of the Bechuanas surely bears the palm. The native, wanting a smoke, selects a patch of damp clay soil, on which he lays a slender switch and packs clay over it, after which he draws out the switch, and the pipe is made. All he has to do is to burn some tobacco over one end of the tunnel, and apply his mouth to the other. The favorite pipe at the present day seems to be the brier, made from the root of a species of heath growing on the shores of the Mediterranean. The wood has a beautiful grain and color, imparts no taste to the smoke, and is practically incombustible. Smokers who have fine briers will do well to cherish them, as our author tells us that the supply will be exhausted in ten years. The meerschaum is the artistocrat of pipes. The material is a fine magnesian clay found in Asia Minor, and the pipe must be carved from the natural block, after which it is treated with various fatty substances which produce the mellow brown tints dear to the smoker. Vienna is the headquarters of the manufacture, though its birthplace is at Pesth, where the coloring effect of wax was accidentally discovered more than a hundred and fifty years ago.

The finest and costliest tobacco in the world is grown in a very limited district in Cuba. According to Mr. Penn, not more than 30,000 cigars of the very highest grade are turned out every year, to be the luxury of kings and millionaires. A dazzling prospect, however, is offered us by a German chemist who has discovered that the flavors of tobaccos are produced by microbes associated with the process of fermentation, and that, by proper inoculation, he can give the vilest mundungus the aroma of the choicest product of the Vuelta Abajo.

Both those who use and those who abuse tobacco will find entertainment and information in this little book, from which they may rise either with liveller gratitude for the bounties of nature, or with keener regrets at the perverseness of man.

Soldier and Athlete.

A university parodist has been giving some comic attention to the attitude of Mr. Kipling (by implication) toward the members of the Oxford University Volunteer Battalion. Here is the result of his efforts:

THE PLAINT OF THE O. U. V. B.

(Apologies to R. K.)

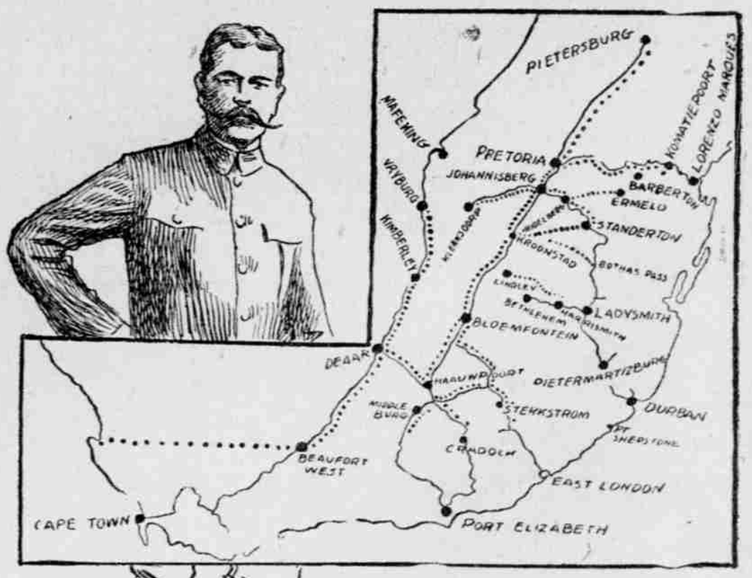
"Lord of the Gleaming Rifle, Prince of the Pipe-clayed Pouch"—
Such were the names ye gave me, and I rose from my early couch,
And ye drilled me in draughty gardens, ye reviewed me in marshy mead,
And I tramped to the distant ranges, and ye said I was marksman indeed.

"Lord of the mildew'd musket, shooter of bugs and blank,"
Such are the names men give me, and call me a Jingo-crank;
And they turn out to jeer at my drilling (some know not, some suffered at school);
And they all return to their "mud" once more, both the "oaf" and the "flannelled fool."

Forty score playing at soldiers. R. K. what a blessed sight!
Most of them play in the "mud" next day, and engage in a less sham fight;
If the soldier's a noble lion, the athlete a senseless sloth,
Say, Lord of Empty Windbags, how can a man be both?

The chemical destruction of weeds is advocated by learned French horticulturists. One application of mineral oil and water keeps down the grass in walks for two years, sea salt kills thistles, and a spray of sulphate of iron is effective against injurious plants of all kinds.

LORD KITCHENER'S 4000 BLOCKHOUSES



Lord Kitchener (Latest Photograph)

This map shows Lord Kitchener's extraordinary blockhouse system in the Cape Colony, the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. Of the gigantic nature of this enterprise an idea may be formed by the merest glance at the map, when it is remembered that the distance from Cape Town to Pietersburg is 1217 miles, and from Mafeking across to the Portuguese frontier 400 miles.

It will be seen that the blockhouses shown on the map by black dots, follow, as a general rule, the lines of the railways, thus guarding the main lines of communication. Sir Howard Vincent, speaking recently at the United Service Institution, says the London Graphic, gave an interesting account of the blockhouse system. There are between 60 and 70 columns of from 1000 to 2000 of all ranks moving over the country, and they employ from 70,000 to 90,000 men. In addition to the men required for the colmuns there are the garrisons of the 4000 blockhouses. An officer and six men are the quota at each blockhouse, but the average is 10 men.

The blockhouse walls consist as a rule of sheets of curved corrugated iron, supporting 24 inches of rammed stone ballast, with a cistern and reserve rations for a week inside. Each blockhouse costs from £50 to £200 if of masonry, the average cost being about £70.

The garrisons are supplemented by dogs.